

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY OF ALAMEDA PLANNING BOARD
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2010

1. CONVENE: 7:12 p.m.
2. FLAG SALUTE: Board Member Zuppan
3. ROLL CALL: Present: President Ezzy Ashcraft, Board Members Ibsen, Kohlstrand, and Zuppan.

Staff present: Andrew Thomas, Planning Services Manager; Erin Garcia, Recording Secretary; Laura Ajello, Planner; Obaid Khan, Transportation Engineer; Barry Bergman, Transportation Coordinator

Absent: Vice-President Autorino, Board Member Lynch

4. MINUTES:
Minutes from the regular meeting of July 26, 2010
Board Member Zuppan motioned, seconded by Board Member Kohlstrand to continue this item to the meeting of 10/11/2010. Motion approved 4-0.

Minutes from the regular meeting of August 9, 2010
Board Member Kohlstrand motioned, seconded by Board Member Ibsen to approve the minutes. Motion approved 4-0.

5. AGENDA CHANGES AND DISCUSSION:
None.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Written Report

6-A Future Agendas

Mr. Thomas presented future agenda items.

6-B Zoning Administrator Report

The Zoning Administrator hearing on September 21, 2010 was canceled.

Oral Report

None.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:
Mr. Wood, co-founder of Bike Alameda, compared the plans for the Webster Street-Willie Stargell bike path to the on-site construction and found that the path is different from what was approved. He is concerned that in-field changes are not

brought back for approval to the Planning Board and recommended that a policy be put in place so that changes are brought forward for review and approval.

President Ezzy Ashcraft and Board Member Kohlstrand asked that Public Works staff provide information at the October 11, 2010 Planning Board meeting on what was originally approved, what changed, and to explain why the changed plans were not brought back for approval by the Planning Board.

Mr. Khan, Public Works, stated that Public Works is considering widening this path, pending more negotiation with College of Alameda, which owns the adjacent property. He also stated that Public Works is working on design standards for bike paths and putting a policy in place for returning projects to the Planning Board for in-field changes.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR:
None.

9. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

9-A 2011 Planning Board Meeting Schedule

The Planning Board will consider and approve a Planning Board meeting schedule for 2011.

Kohlstrand proposed that the December 26, 2010 hearing be canceled and then motioned, seconded by Board Member Zuppan, to approve the meeting schedule as amended. Approved 4-0

9-B Bicycle Master Plan Update and Mitigated Negative Declaration

The Public Works Department of the City of Alameda is requesting approval of a Mitigated Negative Declaration and a Draft Bicycle Master Plan Update. The Bicycle Master Plan establishes citywide bicycle policies, programs and priority actions to improve bicycle access and safety in Alameda.

Mr. Bergman, Public Works, presented the Bicycle Master Plan update and thanked all interested parties' efforts to finalizing the update. The current bicycle master plan was adopted in 1999.

President Ezzy Ashcraft read an email from an Alameda bike advocate, which recommended adoption of the bicycle plan and supported specific bike improvement recommendations.

Mr. Wood, Bike Alameda, commended Mr. Bergman for facilitating the bicycle master plan update. He is concerned that the proposed plan does not promote real change and expansion of bike infrastructure. He noted that more than half of the proposed bike facilities are classified as Class 3 and will solely have signs indicating bike lanes, opposed to Class 2 bike lanes with physical infrastructure improvements. He noted that Park Street is a significant bike corridor, but lacks a

differentiated bike infrastructure.

Board Member Kohlstrand commended staff for the effort put into both the pedestrian and bicycle plans. She requested more information on what portions of the bike plan will be implemented through the City's Capital Improvement program. She asked whether staff had considered design guidelines for bike paths that included painting the bike lanes a vibrant color. She proposed including pedestrian facilities and bike lanes along Tilden Way by reducing the number of lanes. She also suggested reviewing the addition of a separate bike lane along Shoreline Drive. She placed high priority on increasing maintenance on the bike path along the Bay Farm shoreline after the Bay Farm Bridge. A paved bike lane connector between Shoreline Drive and Broadway, parallel to Bayview Drive, should also be given high priority.

Mr. Bergman summarized the written comments by Lee Ho, Bay Trail Planner, who supported several priority projects in the bicycle plan update.

Board Member Ibsen supported changing most proposed routes from a Class 3 to a Class 2 classification to increase safety. He favors working closely with the County of Alameda, which owns the bridges, to create more bike connectivity and access across the bridges. He is concerned that safe bike storage is lacking in the City, and that bike storage is often located off the beaten path, which increases bike theft. He does not prefer the inverted U bike rack, as it damages bikes, and holds only two bikes. He would like to see other bike rack options, such as a slot that supports the wheel and rows them up heads to tail, which would increase bike parking density.

Board Member Zuppan seconds the majority of the comments already provided. She is very concerned that the proposed Fruitvale modifications under construction will render the bridge less pedestrian and bike accessible. She requested that staff provide more information on how those changes will affect the connectivity on the bridge.

Mr. Khan, Public Works, stated that the traffic data suggests that a lane could be taken out on Shoreline Dr, however, staff is still working on how to handle the parking constraints in the evenings.

President Ezzy Ashcraft asked Mr. Khan what the process, cost, or timeline implications are for removing a lane on Shoreline Dr.

Mr. Khan stated that funding for this project is still being determined and that there is no prioritization or timeline for implementing the Shoreline change, beyond the overall implementation horizon of ten years.

President Ezzy Ashcraft asked Mr. Thomas what kind of recommendations the Board can make that would highlight their concerns and prioritization of programs or projects.

Mr. Thomas stated that the bike plan resolution could be amended to include specific comments, or that a companion letter could be forwarded to the City Council outlining specific concerns. He also stated that the Planning Board could

request a bike master plan update every six months that would showcase the implementation efforts currently underway.

President Ezzy Ashcraft recommended cost-sharing with the City of Oakland for the west-end estuary crossing. She supports providing extra funding to Bike Alameda and other local bicycle organizations that already do excellent education programs instead of reinventing the wheel and developing new outreach programs. President Ezzy Ashcraft recommended consulting with Bike Alameda to develop bike-parking areas that are safe and easily accessible. She recommended including bike lanes along Oak Street and she is concerned about safe bike access to Otis Drive when coming from Park Street. She seconded Board Member Kohlstrand's comments about the bike lane along Harbor Bay Isle. Finally, she requested that bike-parking requirements be increased as automobile parking requirements are decreased in the new parking ordinance.

Mr. Khan explained the future congestion levels for several intersections in Alameda and stated that more study is required before lane reductions could actually be implemented.

Board Member Kohlstrand emphasized the urgent need for multi-mode transportation ways and not solely developing an infrastructure that only supports vehicular traffic. She asked that staff prepare a briefing on the 23rd Avenue to 29th Avenue projects in Oakland. She is very concerned that the bike and pedestrian connectivity across the Fruitvale and Park Street Bridges is so poor and strongly recommended revisiting this connection.

Mr. Khan stated that staff was looking at modifying the railroad bridge for pedestrian and bike access.

Board Member Ibsen seconded Kohlstrand's concern regarding the Fruitvale Bridge accessibility.

Board Member Kohlstrand pointed out that the new housing that exists on the Oakland side is bringing these residents to Alameda for shopping, and that safe, easy access is urgently needed along Fruitvale Avenue.

President Ezzy Ashcraft emphasized that the City of Alameda needs to rethink priorities and showcase forward-thinking leadership. She wants the City to provide multi-modal access and focus less on accommodating cars.

Board Member Zuppan asked whether the Civic Center Plan includes bike lanes to allow for safe travel along Oak Street.

Board Member Ibsen recommended that the Planning Board formulate a formal response prior to forwarding a recommendation for approval to City Council.

Board Member Kohlstrand proposed to amend the resolution to (1) elevate the Bayview-Shoreline bike path to a 'high' priority, (2) identify the approach to the Park Street and Fruitvale Bridge (including Tilden Way) to do further evaluation of multi-modal access and to increase connectivity to and from Oakland, (3) seek out cost-

sharing/funding opportunities with Oakland for the west estuary crossing and (4) increase bicycle parking throughout the City.

Board Member Ibsen recommended that the proposed Oak Street bike lane be elevated from Class 3 to Class 2.

President Ezzy Ashcraft asked that the definitions section be brought to the beginning of the document.

Mr. Thomas summarized the process moving forward.

Board Member Zuppan asked that the resolution include language that asks the City Council to appropriate more transportation related funds to the bicycle improvements projects.

Board Member Kohlstrand motioned, seconded by Board Member Ibsen to approve the resolution as amended. Motion passes 4-0. Staff will return the amended resolution to the Planning Board at the next meeting for review.

10. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

11. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:

President Ezzy Ashcraft announced that board members would be asked to participate in Ethics training as required by State law. Information on such training would be forthcoming.

President Ezzy Ashcraft commended Board Member Kohlstrand for participating in the 3-day Susan G. Komen walk.

12. ADJOURNMENT: **9:30 p.m.**